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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-third session

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerry **Kramer** (Canada)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

(Item 4 (a))

Section 4
Disarmament

1. At its 12th meeting, on 18 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect. 4)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 4 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. The Committee welcomed the presentation of the programme narrative of section 4 in the results-based budget format. The Committee also expressed its appreciation of the efforts being made by the Department of Disarmament Affairs in the field of disarmament. Support was particularly expressed for the Department's work on weapons of mass destruction, without diminishing its work on illicit small arms and light weapons. It was observed that more substantiation is required for the new tasks under subprogramme 2, specifically the likelihood of additional conferences on weapons of mass destruction, the implementation of the recommendations of the Policy Working Group on Terrorism and additional mandates from the General Assembly. It was also observed that there is no clear

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justification for the increase in the resources being requested. A similar observation was made regarding subprogramme 5 on the increased projection of projects, consultants, activities and events related to regional disarmament.

4. The view was expressed that improvements should be made to strengthen the subprogramme related to peace and security and greater support should be given to the field of information technology and web site development; and that the necessary capacity to carry out the Department's mandate should be backed by corresponding resources.

5. It was noted that funding for the activities at Headquarters will increase despite a constant level of staffing and accordingly, there may not be a clear need for the increase in resources. The view was expressed that if the Conference on Disarmament continues to remain deadlocked on agreeing to a work programme, subprogramme 1, with its constant staffing levels will be a logical area to seek reductions.

6. Reference was made to General Assembly resolution 57/65, on the relationship between disarmament and development, and the reason for its omission in the programme narrative. The view was expressed that discontinuation of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and of the outputs was not entirely within the thrust of the ninth preambular paragraph of resolution 57/24 on the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization and resolution 57/300 on the strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change.

7. Queries were raised on the termination of outputs, as well as justifications for the proposed increase in the number of posts and whether redeployment options had been explored. The view was expressed that paragraph 4.38 omitted references to outputs emanating from the fourth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament. In connection with the regional centres, concern was expressed that the external factor indicated in paragraph 4.42 (c), which read, "extrabudgetary funding will be pledged and contributed on time (this factor may prove to be critical in the light of apparently falling contributions to the regional centres)", may affect the delivery of the respective mandates.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative on section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, subject to the following modifications.**

9. **The Committee recognizes the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community.**

10. **In paragraph 4.39, replace the seventh to ninth lines after the words "mandated by the General Assembly:" with "compilation of information on measures taken by Member States and international organizations to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction; make accessible to Member States information on national legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual use of goods and technology;".**

11. **The Committee took note that general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control remains the ultimate goal of all efforts exerted in the field of disarmament, and that weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, continue to be the primary concern.**

12. **The Committee recommended that the Department provide further information to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the increased requirement for web site management given the expected increase of just 10 web site users per day described in table 4.16.**